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DANVILLE ENQUIRER.

First Paper Published in Danville, by John S. Williams,
From the Danville Enquirer, August 5, 1833.
Vol. 1, No. 1, —.

(Contributed by J. O. Cunningham.)

‘Danville Illinois.

“It may not be uninteresting to our friends at a distance to give a short statement of the village in which we this day publish the first number of our paper. Danville is situated 40 Degrees North Latitude on the Big Vermilion River, about 30 miles from its confluence with the Wabash and 12 miles on a direct line to that stream. The village is located on a high bluff and nearly surrounded with streams which empty into the Vermilion, many of which, beside the Big Vermilion, have excellent mill seats. The banks of these streams abound with a great quantity of bituminous coal and various minerals, of which we design to speak hereafter. It seems that Nature designed this spot for a village by spreading about 400 acres of rich, black, sandy soil, once covered with the hazel and plum bush, on this peninsula and bluff! in the midst of some of the finest timber in the State—said to be 12 or 14,000 acres in a body, and except at one arm, entirely surrounded with prairie of Illinois, which is the same as to say there can hardly be better land found in the world. On this and the local advantages of this county we will at some other time speak.

This village was commenced six years since under discouraging prospects for building.

There are now 81 houses, a usual number of out houses, a large brick Court House and Jail, a Land Office

of the United States, seven stores, two grocery stores, two taverns, a common number of mechanics, but most kinds much wanted, three physicians, three lawyers, the clerk of the different courts and three clergymen.

Besides the buildings referred to, we might mention others just out of the village, and a saw and grist mill, which is not, however, by its well attendance, able to supply the wants of the increasing population.

The road from Vincennes to Chicago passes through the center of the town, and across the river, of which contracts to the amount of \$2,000 will be entered into the 1st of September next, to construct a bridge. A very little expense, we are informed, will construct an excellent road to Chicago, 120 miles from Danville.

We speak of Danville because we know it, but there are many villages in this part of the state, we are told, fast rising into note. We ought not, however, to omit mentioning that adjacent to the town there are a beautiful collection of springs issuing from the bluff and falling thirty and forty feet and which if collected and with capital may (as any one a little versed in the science of water power will readily judge) be used for almost any kind of machinery. They are frequently found issuing from apparently exhausted beds of coal and limestone. So far as we are acquainted, and judging by comparison, we cannot see any obstacles to gradual growth of this village to a very large size and importance. All that is now wanted here is *means*, and population will follow.

Danville lies on the great road leading from Indianapolis to Vandalia, and another to Fort Clark and Galena, and is the great thoroughfare for drovers who pass through from Ohio and other states with cattle and horses collected in Illinois and Missouri.

P S.—We have just learned that one of our inn-keepers, Jesse Gilbert, has taken the pains to keep an exact account of all the cattle that have been driven through the

village during the summer of 1832, which are 5,784; and up to this period of 1833, 1,675. He remarked to us that besides the droves which have passed here for the eastern markets, many others he has learned have been driven by other routes to Chicago, Michigan, and markets farther south. He has been informed by the drovers that there are many other large droves brought up and now grazing, which will this fall be driven to Ohio and Pennsylvania.

If there could be any fact wanting to convince our eastern friends (who unfortunately, in some instances, think Illinois yet a barren waste, and without the elements of greatness) we are sure that this simple fact and a statement of the immense number of cattle which have passed through this one town on the border of this state, would convince them that Illinois is destined to be one of the greatest growing states in this Union.

These things are more particularly noticed that some farmers and capitalists who are now badly informed, or are ignorant altogether of the immense number of cattle even now raised in this new state, may become better acquainted on this subject and eventually invest their money in farms here, where all things combine to make the grazing of cattle and the raising of horses the cheapest in any quarter of our extensive and fertile country.”
—Danville Enquirer, August 5, 1833.